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We're Still Marching: Updating our Understanding and Interpretation of the Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement

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Movement

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Executive Summary

The black revolution is much more than a struggle for the rights of Negroes. It is forcing America to face all its interrelated flaws—racism, poverty, militarism, and materialism. It is exposing evils that are deeply rooted in the whole structure of our society...and suggests that radical reconstruction of society is the real issue to be faced.
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

One of the major lessons learned from the National Park Service's Civil War to Civil Rights Commemoration in 2015 was that the relevance of the park system and NPS programs rests in the connections to long-standing and on-going struggles for equality. Though the Park Service has acknowledged that there are many problems to solve, including grappling with its racist origins and the visible lack of diversity in its workforce and visitorship, the agency is still a long way from positioning itself as a national resource and catalyst for conversations about the nation's historic and ongoing quest to fulfill the promise of justice and equality for all. For such a claim would require that the Service repair and modernize its interpretive infrastructure for the American public through discovering (research) and sharing (audience-centered interpretation) all Americans' stories, for all audiences, in an environment that is respectful of our visitors, partners, and more importantly, our staff. Thus, the purpose of this annotated bibliography is to present new and updated research that exposes the evils that are deeply rooted in the structure of our society, which will allow us, as an agency, to foster understanding, healing, and change within the Park System and broader society.

We're Still Marching...

Fifty years after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech, then President Barack H. Obama stated on August 28, 2013 that:

"They [civil rights leaders] did not die in vain. Their victory was great. But we would dishonor those heroes as well to suggest that the work of this nation is somehow complete. This arc of the moral universe may bend toward justice, but it doesn't bend on its own. To secure the gains this country has made requires constant vigilance, not complacency."

In essence, President Obama was saying that "We are still marching." While many Americans believe that his election in 2008 was supposed to signal that America was finally in a post-racial society, even he admitted that, "Such a vision, however well-intended, was never realistic. Race remains a potent and often divisive force in our society." Though many had hoped his election would usher in a new era of dialogue on racial relations, Dr. **Carson (2013)**, argues that, instead it ".reinforced the false ideas that racial equality in America had been achieved and a dialogue on race relations is unnecessary." However, the continued educational, economic, health, and social disparities between people of color and white America are today more visible than ever. In his presidential address, **Litwack (2009)** argued that while everything has changed, nothing has really changed and that the small achievements won by the Civil Rights Movement did little to address the issues that had a more devastating affected on black communities. The same can be said of other social movements led by Native Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans, the

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LGBTQ+ community, and women. Despite the “gains” of these movements, America has still fallen short of its claim of justice and equality for all. Though this bibliography centralizes issues of race, racism, and white supremacy/privilege, fully understanding the true story of the Civil Rights Movement will help you better understand other types of discrimination, such as gender bias, ableism, and anti-LBGTQ+ and religious persecution. Due to intersectionality (Crenshaw 1989) these movements are inextricably linked to each other and bound by the system of white supremacy that undergirds American society.

As the National Park Service enters its second century, now, especially given our current sociopolitical and economic climate, it needs to reflect on its racist origins and the fact that there is a noticeable lack of diversity in its workforce and visitorship. To ensure that everyone can see themselves in our national park system, we must repair and modernize the interpretive infrastructure of the NPS to weave the excluded past into the national narrative, activate the unique power of place to facilitate understanding, healing, and change in our society, and support the holistic development and retention of a healthy workforce. Repairing and modernizing the interpretive infrastructure to be more inclusive will take time, patience, and dedication. It is more than just expanding the research to be more inclusive of all Americans’ stories. It means creating an environment that is safe, inclusive, and supportive for our visitors, partners, and more importantly our staff. To help ensure that everyone can see themselves within the park system,

This bibliography is organized into seventeen categories from anti-racism to health and housing to whiteness studies and voting. These categories were selected in order to (re)introduce terms such as anti-racism, colorblindness, identity, racism, and whiteness/white privilege that challenge everything we thought we knew. These terms must be understood in order to prepare change agents, those who are committed to helping the Park Service repair and modernize interpretive infrastructure, to meet the basic competencies needed to promote understanding, healing, and change through facilitating difficult conversations. While some of these works may be familiar to you, the goal is to expand your knowledge of these stories. This bibliography is only a sampling of the resources that are available on these topics and should be used as a springboard for new avenues of research.

This bibliography is organized into nineteen categories from anti-racism to health and housing to whiteness studies and voting. These categories were selected in order to (re)introduce terms such as anti-racism, colorblindness, identity, racism, and whiteness/white privilege that challenge everything we thought we knew. These terms must be understood in order to prepare change agents, those who are committed to helping the Park Service repair and modernize interpretive infrastructure, to meet the basic competencies needed to promote understanding, healing, and change through facilitating difficult conversations. While some of these works may be familiar to you, the goal is to expand your knowledge of these stories. This bibliography is only a sampling of the resources that are available on these topics and should be used as a springboard for new avenues of research.

Contents

Executive Summary	2
Categories	5
1. Anti-Racism/ Racism	5
2. American Indian Activism/ Civil Rights	7
3. Civil Rights History	8
4. Color-Blindness	12
5. Critical Black Studies/Resistance	12
6. Black Feminism/ Womanism.....	14
7. Film/Media/Popular Culture	15
8. General History	17
9. Great Migration.....	18
10. Health and Housing.....	18
11. Identity	19
12. Jim Crow	19
13. LGBTQ+ Liberation	19
14. Miscellaneous	20
15. Slavery/ Reconstruction	20
16. Policing in America	21
17. Whiteness/White Privilege.....	23
18. Women's Liberation	25
19. Voting	25

Categories

1. Anti-Racism/ Racism

Berry, Mary Frances. [1971] 1994. *Black Resistance, White Law: A History of Constitutional Racism in America*. New York: Penguin.

Berry explores the ways the government has used the Constitution to deny African American their legal rights. Her argument helps us understand why millions of African Americans are at risk of police abuse and are for the most part unprotected from bias crimes.

Why Read: Provides a historical basis for the need for social justice movements like Black Lives Matter.

Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 2001. *White Supremacy & Racism in the Post-Civil Rights Era*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Bonilla-Silva redefines racism and prejudice to suggest that white supremacy and racial ideology are the reasons that minorities lag behind whites in income, wealth, occupation and health status, educational attainment, etc.

Why Read: Critical look at on-going racism in the United States, and is a must for those interested in racial inequalities, race relations, and the changing nature of racial discourse in the U.S.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. 2015. *Between the World and Me*. New York: Spiegel & Grau.

This is a personal letter Coates writes to his son about the feelings, symbolism, and realities associated with being Black in America. Inspired by Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*, Coates paints white supremacy as an indestructible force that black people will always struggle against.

Why Read: Coates offers a new framework for understanding our nation's history and current sociopolitical climate.

Glaude, Jr., Eddie S. 2018. *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul*. New York: Broadway Books.

Glaude argues that the current state of black America, which he refers to as the Great Black Depression, undermines the idea that we are in a post-racial America. He believes that white privilege still influences our politics today.

Why Read: Glaude exposes the illusion of innocence at the heart of America by highlighting the concrete effects of persistent racial inequality.

Jackson, Jenn. 2017. *Doing the Work: White People Must Invest in Anti-Racism*. December 26. <http://www.bitchmedia.org/article/white-people-invest-in-anti-racism>.

“Doing the work” is more than having difficult conversations, it is working to exact change at the institutional level. Jackson argues white people can begin by differentiating between non-racist and anti-racist actions and understanding that there is a big difference between the passive work of being non-racist and the active work of dismantling systems of oppression.

Why Read: It is important to understand that there is a big difference between being non-racist and anti-racist, and that to effectively be anti-racist you cannot just “do the work” when it is comfortable to you. This is a quick read that hits on some of the major points in the works in this section.

Kendi, Ibram X. 2019. *How to Be an Anti-racist*. Random House Publishing Group.

In a brilliant follow-up to *Stamped from the Beginning*, Kendi takes his readers through his journey towards becoming antiracist. He demonstrates why there is no neutrality in the racism struggle—you are either racist or antiracist. By defining a racist as one who supports a racist policy through their actions or inaction, he opens the door for black Americas to also be racist. He argues that these are not fixed identities and can change with what we say and do about race in each moment.

2016. *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*. New York: Nation Books.

Kendi traces the presence of anti-black racism over the course of American history to argue that racism did not come from ignorance or hatred—it was created to justify discriminatory policies and racial inequalities.

Why Read: Provides the background necessary to expose racist thinking and challenge the status quo.

Onishi, Yuichiro. 2014. *Transpacific Antiracism: Afro-Asian Solidarity in 20th-Century Black American, Japan, and Okinawa*. New York: NYU Press.

Onishi reintroduces the work of black intellectual-activists, such as W.E.B. Du Bois and Hubert Harrison, who took a pro-Japan stance in the first half of the 20th century to help us understand how social movements in Black America, Japan, and Okinawa formed Afro-Asian solidarities against white supremacy.

Why Read: It’s a unique and valuable contribution to the scholarship on Afro-Asian relations.

Wallis, Jim. 2017. *America’s Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America*. Grand Rapids, Brazos Press.

Disturbed by a white church that considered dealing with racism as taboo, Wallis offers a call to action for faith communities to help lead the way for grassroots change against racism.

Why Read: This is an important work for faith communities who wish to enact real change in their communities.

2. American Indian Activism/ Civil Rights

Adelman, Jeremy and Stephan Aron. (1999). *From Borderlands to Borders: Empires, Nation-States, and the Peoples in Between in North American History*. American Historical Review 104 (3): 814-841.

Bates, Denise E. 2012. *The Other Movement: Indian Rights and Civil Rights in the Deep South*. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press.

Bates explores the role state Indian affairs commissions played in the Deep South in helping to elevate the American Indian civil rights movement into a more prominent political level. Through these commissions, Indian communities were able to create strong networks between local, state, and national agencies that could help advocate for cultural preservation and revitalization, economic development, and community services.

Blackhawk, Ned. 2006. *Violence Over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West*. Harvard University Press.

Brown, Dee. 2012. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. New York: Open Road Media.

First published in 1970 amid increasing American Indian activism, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* is a meticulously documented account of the systematic destruction of the American Indian during the second half of the nineteenth century. Brown uses the massacre at Wounded Knee as a backdrop for his examination of race relations between whites and American Indians and highlights the relatively few moments when whites attempted to live peacefully with American Indians.

Why Read: It is the first account of the time period between 1860 and 1890 told from the American Indian point of view. It was an instant classic and has since been translated into 17 languages.

Watch: *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* (2007)

Perdue, Theda. 1999. *Cherokee Women: Gender and Culture Change, 1700-1835*. Bison Books.

Smith, Paul Chaat and Robert Allen Warrior. 1996. *Like a Hurricane: The Indian Movement from Alcatraz to Wounded Knee*. New York: The New Press.

3. Civil Rights History

Baldwin, James. 1993. *The Fire Next Time*. Vintage International.

Baldwin pens two essays, “My Dungeon Shook—Letter to my Nephew on the One Hundredth Anniversary of Emancipation” and “Down At the Cross—Letter from a Region of My Mind” which address racial tension, the role of religion, and the limitations of narrow-minded thinking.

Barnett, Bernice McNair. 1993. "Invisible Southern Black Women Leaders in the Civil Rights Movement: The Triple Constraints of Gender, Race, and Class." *Gender and Society* 162-82.

Barnett uses archival data and personal interviews conducted with civil rights leaders to: 1) explore the specific leadership roles of Black woman activists; 2) describe the experiences of selected black women activists from their own viewpoint; and 3) offers explanations for the lack of recognition and non-inclusion of Black women in Civil Rights leadership.

Why Read: Southern female black women are a category of invisible unsung heroes and leaders. It’s necessary to understand their roles and struggles for liberation.

Behnken, B.D. 2011. *Fighting their own battles: Mexican Americans, African Americans, and the struggle for civil rights in Texas*. Charlotte: University of North Carolina Press.

Despite Mexican Americans and African Americans fighting against segregation and state imposed racism between 1940 and 1975 in Texas, their efforts were rarely unified. Behnken explores the cultural dissimilarities, geographical distance, class tensions, and organizational differences that worked to separate the two groups.

Berger, Martin A. *Seeing through Race: A Reinterpretation of Civil Rights Photography*.

Why Read: Texas was one of the few states to experience two civil rights movements, and this comparison helps bridge the fields of Mexican American and African American history by contextualizing why these two groups fought their own battles.

Watch: Chicano! Mexican Civil Rights Movement
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PopT9KGliMQ>

Branch, Taylor. 2013. *The King Years: Historic Moments in the Civil Rights Movement*. Simon and Schuster.

Brown, Elaine. 1992. *A Taste of Power: A Black Woman’s Story*. New York: Random House Publishing Group.

This is Elaine Brown’s personal account of her life at the highest levels of the Black Panther Party. A protégé, lover, and eventual nemesis of Huey P. Newton, Brown became the first and only female leader in the party. Brown eventually left the Black Panthers

after she became disillusioned by the corrupting influence of power and the violence against women in the party. When she left the party, she wrote her story, which tells her story of how she led this paramilitary, male-dominated organization and what she did with her brown.

Why Read: It's an incredible testimony that weaves together personal account and political history, making it an invaluable contribution to American history, African American history, and women's history.

Watch: Reflections Unheard, Black Women in the Civil Rights Movement.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gSfCnVE3gU>

These Women were the Unsung Heroes of the Black Panther Party
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91mFsfJywXE>

Clark, Septima Poinsette. 1962. *Echo in My Soul*. E.P. Dutton & Co.

Cobb, Charles E. 2015. *This Nonviolent Stuff'll Get Your Killed: How Guns Made the Civil Rights Movement Possible*. Duke University Press Books.

Despite Martin Luther King, Jr.'s commitment to non-violence, his home was an arsenal. Cobb describes the vital role that armed self-defense played in the survival and liberation of black communities during Civil Rights Movement. As a former field secretary for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Cobb draws on his own personal experiences provides a controversial examination of how nonviolent activists and their allies were able to keep the movement alive by knowing when to use firearms.

Why Read: Cobb explores the complexities and contradictions of the commitment to non-violence and yet the need for self-defense. It adds a much-needed dimension to the Civil Rights Movement.

Watch: This Nonviolent Stuff'll Get You Killed
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTgdrll6xWg>

Chalmers, David. 2003. *Backfire: How the Ku Klux Klan Helpd the Civil Rights Movement*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield.

Chalmers demonstrates how the KKK helped unintentionally spur the Civil Rights Movement and revolutionize the role of the government through its violence. He traces the struggle to punish Klan members in Alabama, Georgia, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He also examines the role Morris Dees and the SPLC had in bringing the Klan down.

—. 1987. *Hooded Americanism: The History of the Ku Klux Klan*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Chalmers examines the growth, expansion, and reiteration of the KKK from Reconstruction through the Civil Rights Movement.

Prepared by:
Mia L. Carey, PhD

Collier-Thomas, Bettie and V.P. Franklin. *Sisters in the Struggle: African American Women in the Civil Rights-Black Power Movement*.

Farmer, Ashley D. 2017. *Remaking Black Power: How Black Women Transformed an Era*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Farmer examines black women's political, social, and cultural engagement with Black Power ideals and organizations. She demonstrates how female activists fought for more inclusive understandings of black power and social justice by developing new ideas about black womanhood. They created new tropes of womanhood, including the "Militant Black Domestic", "the Revolutionary Black Woman", and the "Third World Woman" that spurred debate among activists over the importance of women and gender to Black Power organizing.

Why Read: Farmer helps shift the attention away from the paternalistic male leadership of the Black Power movement, to women who reimagined empowerment on their own terms by defining who they were and who they wanted to be.

Litwack, Leon F. 2009. "Fight the Power! The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement." *The Journal of Southern History* 3-28.

This is a presidential address given at the 74th annual meeting of the Southern History Association. Litwack takes you on a journey that covers 400 years of American history to conclude that: Everything has changed, but nothing has changed. The small achievements won by the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s did little to address the issues that had a more devastating impact on black communities: deteriorating schools, hostile police departments, discrimination, jobs, healthcare, education etc. One interviewee noted that we've been celebrating scoring a touchdown for 30 years, but we're still playing the game.

Why Read: It challenges everything you thought you knew about the Civil Rights Movement and helps you question what was actually accomplished by the Civil Rights Movement.

King Jr., Martin Luther. 2000. *Why We Can't Wait*. Penguin Books

Ransby, Barbara. 2003. *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision*. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press.

Ransby chronicles Ella Baker's (1903-1986) long political career as an organizer, an intellectual, and a teacher. Baker is one of the most important African American leaders

of the 20th century and is considered one of the most influential women in the civil rights movement.

Why Read: Ransby paints Baker as a complex figure whose radical, democratic worldview, commitment to empowering the black poor, and emphasis on group-centered, grassroots leadership set her apart from her political contemporaries.

Watch: Ella Baker, The Woman who Taught a Movement

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBz0-bCAF1Y>

Shakur, Assata. 1986. *Assata: An Autobiography*. Lawrence Hill Books.

Born Joane Deborah Chesimard, Shakur was a Black Panther Activist. In 1973, she was pulled over by the New Jersey State Police, shot twice, and later charged with the murder of a police officers. She spent six and a half years in prison before escaping to Cuba, where she has lived ever since. Shakur's autobiography challenges the fearsome image people have of her that was projected by the media and state, and bolstered by J. Edgar Hoover's campaign to defame, infiltrate, and criminalize black organizations and their leaders.

Why Read: It combats the narrative that the federal government wanted to promote about black organizations and their leaders.

Watch: Eyes of the Rainbow, a documentary film with Assata Shakur

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfXGIS3EKxs>

Website: <http://assatashakur.net/>

Stevenson, Bryan. 2015. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. New York: Spiegel & Grau.

Theoharis, Jeanne. 2018. *A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Theoharis deconstructs the stories and memorials of the civil rights movement we have been taught in order to construct new knowledge and the fuller history we need for today. By this she means how the Civil Rights Movement has been turned into a legend, a thing of the past, that has been whitewashing and diminished in scope. She argues that Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. have been turned into Thanksgiving Day balloons – larger than life, unthreatening, happy patriots, rather than the freedom fighters they truly were. She challenges nine key aspects of the “fable” revealing the diversity of individuals who led the movement, the work and disruption it took; the role of the media and polite racism in maintaining racial injustice; and the barriers and repression that activists faced.

Why Read: There's the old adage that only truth shall set us free, and if this was in book form, this would be it. Continuing to share the distorted version of the Civil Rights fable,

not only discredits but completely disrespects the work of anti-racists in the past and in the present.

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtFJhXFzd0>

X, Malcolm, and Alex Haley. 2015. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. New York: Ballentine Books.

4. Color-Blindness

Alexander, Michelle. 2010. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York, New York: New Press.

Combats the argument that racial discrimination ended in the 1960s. Alexander argues that the War on Drugs was used to reinforce traditional, and new, forms of discrimination and oppression. These forms have led to the highest rate of incarceration in the world and a disproportionately higher rate of imprisonment for African American men.

Why Read: Mass incarceration is understood as a well-disguised system of control that operates similar to Jim Crow.

Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 2013. *Racism without Racists: Color-blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield.

This is the 5th edition of Bonilla-Silva's widely acclaimed *Racism without Racists*. By documenting how, beneath our contemporary conversation about race, lies an arsenal that whites use to account for and justify racial inequalities, he is able to eviscerate the claim that American is now a color-blind society.

Why Read: Color-blind racism is a form of racism that needs to be acknowledged and discussed.

5. Critical Black Studies/Resistance

Camp, Stephanie. 2004. *Closer to Freedom: Enslaved Women and Everyday Resistance in the Plantation South*.

Cooper, Brittany. 2018. *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers her superpower*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Eloquent Rage is a black girl anthem in book form. Cooper argues that when used with precision, a black woman's anger can be a powerful source for progress and change when it is used for good. Her journey to discovering that anger was her superpower let's us know that it is not for some of black woman, it is in all black women to make change.

Manning, Marable, and Leith Mullings. 2003. *Let Nobody Turn Us Around: Voices of Resistance, Reform and Renewal: An African American Anthology*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

Tatum, Beverly. 2017. *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria: And Other Conversations About Race*. New York: Basic Books.

In this fully revised and updated edition, Tatum argues that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about enabling communication across racial and ethnic divides.

Why Read: Useful for dealing with difficult conversations and facilitated dialogue.

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. 2016. *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*. Chicago: Haymarket Books.

Taylor examines the historical and contemporary consequences of racism and the persistence of structural inequality, such as mass incarceration and Black unemployment. She argues that the struggle against police violence has the potential to lead to a broader push for Black liberation.

Why Read: It's a critical addition to the ideas and strategies of our movements against racism.

6. Black Feminism/ Womanism

Berry, Daina Ramey and Kali Nicole Gross. 2020. *A Black Woman's History of the United States*. Beacon Press.

Carruthers, Charlene. 2018. *Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements*. Boston: Beacon.

Drawing on Black intellectual and grassroots organizing traditions, Carruthers calls for those engaged in social justice efforts, to make the movement more radical, more queer, and more feminist. Offers a guide for how social justice movements can become sharper and more effective through principled struggle, healing justice, and leadership development.

Why Read: It is an invitation to revolutionary action.

Collins, Patricia Hill. 2000. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. New York: Routledge.

Originally published in 1990, Collins explores the words and ideas of Black feminist intellectuals and writers, who have been overlooked. She provides an interpretive framework for prominent Black feminists like Angela Davis, bell hooks, Alice Walker, and Audre Lorde.

Why Read: It's the first synthetic view of Black feminist thought and its canon.

Cooper, Brittney. 2017. *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women (Women, Gender, and Sexuality in American History)*. University of Illinois Press.

2018. *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower*. St. Martin's Press.

Crenshaw, Kimberley. 1989. "Demarginalizing the intersection of race and sex: A Black feminist critique of antidiscrimination doctrine, feminist theory, and antiracist politics." *The University of Chicago Legal Forum* 139-167.

Moraga, Cherrie, and Glorinda Andzaldúa. 2015. *The Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Racial Women of Color*. New York: State University of New York Press.

Through personal essays, criticisms, interviews, testimonials, poetry, and visual art, this anthology centers the experiences of women of color, emphasizing the points of intersectionality within their multiple identities, race, class, gender, and sexuality.

Why Read: This book ultimately laid the foundation for third wave feminism- which focused on abolishing gender-role stereotypes and expanding feminism to include women with diverse racial and cultural identities.

7. Film/Media/Popular Culture

Birth of a Nation (2016)

Twelve Years a Slave (2013)

13 (Netflix)

Cracking the Code (2014)

Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible (2006)

Eyes on the Prize (1987-1990)

The West (1996)

Iron Jawed Angels (2004)

Malcom X (1992)

Selma (2014)

Mississippi Burning (1988): This movie is loosely based on the murder investigation into three missing civil rights workers in 1964 in a fictional Jessup County, Mississippi.

The Long Walk Home (1990): Forced to drive to the black side of town to pick up her maid, Odessa, Miriam, a well-to-do white woman, is forced to confront her white privilege during the Alabama bus boycotts.

Ghosts of Mississippi (1996): Based on the real-life story of the 1994 trial of Byron De La Beckwith, a white supremacist, who murdered Medgar Evers.

Rosewood (1997): Loosely based on the 1923 massacre in Rosewood, Florida, this movie introduces a fictional character that comes to town to inspire the black community to defend themselves.

Freedom on my Mind (1994): This is a documentary that explored the Freedom Summer in Mississippi that chronicles the period between 1961 and 1964 and the struggles for voter registration.

The Loving Story (2011)

Freedom Riders (2010)

I am Not Your Negro (2016)

Scottsboro: An American Tragedy (2001)

Stonewall (2015)

The Life and Times of Harvey Milk or Milk (1984)

Before Stonewall (1984)

Little Big Man (1970)

Black Robe (1991)

Smoke Signals (1998)

We Shall Remain (2009): This is a 5-part, 7.5-hour documentary series that traces the history of Native Americans from the 17th century through the 20th century.

We Still Live Here (2011): Nutayunean tell the story of the return of the Wampanoag language, the first language with no Native speakers to be revived in the United States.

Images of Indians: How Hollywood Stereotyped the Native American (2003): This movie traces how Native Americans have been portrayed by Hollywood in Western films through interviews and archival footage.

Do the Right Thing (1989)

4 Little Girls (1997): This is a historical documentary that recounts the events that took place on September 15, 1963, when four little girls lost their lives in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama.

Roots (1977)

After Stonewall (1999): This is a documentary about the 30 years of gay rights activism that has occurred since the riots at Stonewall in 1969; it is the follow-up to Before Stonewall.

Red Injun (2009): This is a documentary film about how Native Americans have been depicted in Hollywood films.

To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman (1974)

The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till (2005)

Souder (1972)

A Raisin in the Sun (1961): This is a movie that was adopted from Lorraine Hansberry 1959 play and traces the story of black family anticipating a large insurance settlement, each of whom have their own idea of what to do with the money.

Ocoee: Legacy of the Election Day Massacre (2008): Explores the race riot in 1920 in Ocoee, Florida that occurred after Klansman harassed African Americans who were trying to vote.

42 (2013): This is a biopic that traces the integration of Jackie Robinson into major league baseball.

Fruitvale Station (2013): This movie is based on the events that led up to the death of Oscar Grant, a young father who was killed in 2009 by Johannes Mehserle, a BART police officer at Fruitvale Station.

Cesar Chavez (2014): This is a biopic that explores the life of Cesar Chavez, co-founder of the United Farm Workers, who was torn between being a father and his commitment to farm workers.

The Butler (2013): This movie is loosely based on Eugene Allen, a butler who worked in the White House for over 30 years and witnesses some of the most significant socio-political events of the 20th century.

Soundtrack for a Revolution (2009): This movie examines the civil rights movement through music.

Hidden Figures (2016): This biopic tells the story of a team of black female mathematicians who played a significant role in the early years of the U.S. space program.

The Rosa Parks Story (2002): Angela Basset portrays Rosa Parks in this biopic that chronicles Parks' time as a private school student through her arrest for refusing to give up her seat on a bus.

Ruby Bridges (1998): This movie chronicles the true story of Ruby Bridges, one of several African American students who were allowed to integrate schools in New Orleans.

Betty and Coretta (2013): Following the assassinations of their husbands and their dual-inheritance of responsibility in the Civil Rights Movement, this movie follows the friendship between Betty Shabazz and Coretta Scott King that spanned three decades.

8. General History

Loewen, James W. 1995. *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*. New York: New Press.

First published in 1995, *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, explained how 12 high-school American History textbooks got the story of America wrong. In the 2018 edition, Loewen includes a new preface that demonstrate how inadequate history courses in high school help produce adult Americans who think Donald Trump can solve their problems. He calls out academic historians for abandoning the concept of truth in a misguided effort to be objective.

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Why Read: It's a must read for all Americans.

--1999. *Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong*. New York: New York Press.

In *Lies Across America*, Loewen looks at more than 100 sites where history is told on the landscape and corrects historically wrong interpretations, while telling the often-neglected stories about America's past. He raises the questions about what we as a nation commemorate and how.

Why Read: It's an amazing follow up to *Lies My Teacher Told Me* and could get question and correct interpretations that are outright wrong and/or outdated.

9. Great Migration

Wilkerson, Isabel. 2010. *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. New York: Vintage.

In this historical study, Wilkerson chronicles the story of the Great Migration (1915-1970) during which millions of African Americans left the racist south to resettle in the Midwest, Northeast, and West seeking better lives and opportunities. She intertwines a general history with a statistical analysis of the period. She includes the biographies of three individuals: Ida Mae Brandon Gladney, a sharecropper's wife who left Mississippi in 1930 for Chicago; George Swanson Starling, an agricultural worker from Florida; and Robert Joseph Pershing Foster, a doctor who left Louisiana for L.A.

Why Read: Wilkerson combats the belief that these migrants were "poor illiterates who imported out-of-wedlock births, joblessness, and welfare dependency wherever they went" by demonstrating that they should be considered as the modern version of the Europeans who arrived in America in the 1800 and 1900s.

10. Health and Housing

Desmond, Matthew. 2017. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Broadway.

Desmond follows eight families as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads in Milwaukee. *Evicted* helps us to better understand poverty and economic exploitation in America.

Roberts, Dorothy. 2014. *Killing the Black Body, Race, Reproduction and the Meaning of Liberty*. 20th Anniversary Edition. Vintage.

Roberts highlights the systematic abuse of black women's bodies from the control of their fertility under slavery to the government programs that sterilized poor black women as late as the 1970s.

Washington, Harriet A. 2006. *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present*.

Washington provides the first comprehensive history of the medical experimentation on African Americans, including grave robbing, eugenics, and the Tuskegee experiment. This history is an important component of understanding the roots of the health deficit among African Americans.

11. Identity

Ellison, Ralph. 1952. *Invisible Man*. Vintage Books.

Eyerman, Ron. 2001. *Cultural Trauma: Slavery and the Formation of African American Identity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Larsen, Nella. 2018. *Passing*. Restless Books.

Rankine, Claudia. 2014. *Citizen*. Graywolf Press.

12. Jim Crow

Alexander, Michelle. 2010. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York, New York: New Press.

Combats the argument that racial discrimination ended in the 1960s. Alexander argues that the War on Drugs was used to reinforce traditional, and new, forms of discrimination and oppression. These forms have led to the highest rate of incarceration in the world and a disproportionately higher rate of imprisonment for African American men.

Why Read: Mass incarceration is understood as a well-disguised system of control that operates similar to Jim Crow.

Anderson, James D. 1988. *The Education of Blacks in the South, 1860-1935*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Muhammad, Khalil Gibran. 2011. *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America*. Harvard University Press.

Rothstein, Richard. 2018. *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*. Liveright.

Sugrue, Thomas. 2014. *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*. Princeton University Press.

13. LGBTQ+ Liberation

Johnson, E. Patrick. 2018. *Black. Queer. Southern. Women: A New Book in Oral History*.

Prepared by:
Mia L. Carey, PhD

Johnson explores the narratives and experiences of over seventy black queer women who were raised in the American south. Their narratives help shed light on the way they experience and express their racial, sexual, gender, and class identities in a place that has historically placed them on the margins of society.

14. Miscellaneous

Carson, Emmett. 2013. Foundations and the Fallacy of a Post-Racial America: African American Men and Civic Engagement. <http://bmafund.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Foundations-and-the-Fallacy-of-a-Post-Racial-America.pdf>, accessed March 4, 2019.

15. Slavery/ Reconstruction

Baptist, Edward E. 2016. *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism*. Basic Books.

Baptist argues that the expansion of slavery in the eighty years following the American independence is what catapulted the United States into a capitalist society.

Why Read: It's a fresh take on the interpretation of slavery.

Berlin, Ira. 2012. *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*.

Berlin challenges the notion that all enslaved African Americans grew cotton, especially before cotton became king, and instead traces the evolution of black society from the first arrivals through the American revolution. In telling this story, Berlin captures the diversity that slavery and freedom took as well as the renegotiation of slavery and race.

--2009. *Generations of Captivity: A History of African American Slaves*.

Picking up where he left off in *The Half Has Never Been Told*, Berlin continues tracing the history of American slavery from the seventeenth century through 1865. As before, Berlin argues that the terms of captivity were renegotiated. He argues that the making and remaking of slavery by successive generations of Africans and African Americans.

Berry, Daina R. *The Price for Their Pound of Flesh.: The Value of the Enslaved from Womb to Grave in the Building of a Nation.* Boston: Beacon Press.

Berry explores the economic value of enslaved persons through each phase of their live in the early years of the slave trade in America. Her exploration shows the lengths to which enslavers went to maximize their profits.

Downs, Jim. 2012. *Sick from Freedom: African American Illness and Suffering during the Civil War and Reconstruction.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Downs argues that the Civil War produced the largest biological crisis of the nineteenth century as an innumerable number of freed people died from sickness and disease linked to yellow fever, smallpox, cholera, dysentery, malnutrition, and exposure.

Gaines, Ernest J. *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman.* Perfection Learning.

Jacobs, Harriet. A. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl.*

Foner, Eric. 1988. *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863–1877.* New York: Harper Perennial.

Foner explores the aftermath of the Civil War and the end of slavery and white and black Americans responded to

—. 1990. *The New American History.* Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Northup, Soloman. *12 Years a Slave.*

Parsons, Elaine Frantz. 2015. *Ku-Klux: The Birth of the Klan during Reconstruction.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

White, Deborah Gray. 1985. *Ar'n't I a Woman? Female Slaves in the Plantation South.*

16. Policing in America

Butler, Paul. 2017. *Chokehold: Policing Black Men.* The New Press.

Hattery, Angela and Earl Smith. 2017. *Policing Black Bodies: How Black Lives are Surveilled and How to Work for Change.* Rowman & Littlefield.

Pegues, Jeff. 2017. *Black and Blue: Inside the Divide Between the Police and Black America.* Prometheus.

Rothstein, Richard. 2017. *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America.* Liveright.

Prepared by:
Mia L. Carey, PhD

Vitale, Alex S. 2017. *The End of Policing*. Verso Books.

17. Whiteness/White Privilege

Accapadi, M. 2007. "When White Women Cry: How White women's tears oppress women of color." *College Student Affairs Journal* 26: 208-215.

Accapadi uses a case study to highlight the complexities of race and gender using the Privilege Identity Exploration (PIE) model. The PIE Model identifies 8 defensive reactions that are displayed in difficult conversation when a person is being encouraged to reflect on their social, political, and economic positions in society. The reactions are in three categories: 1) Recognizing Privileged Identity: Denial, Deflection, and Rationalization; 2) Contemplating Privileged Identity: Intellectualization, Principium, and False Envy; and 3) Addressing Privileged Identity: Minimization and Benevolence.

Why Read: These mechanisms can apply to many difficult conversations across race without including gender. By recognizing these reactions when engaging in social interactions, and following the strategies including in the article, one would be better equipped in creating a healthy environment to have difficult conversations.

Anderson, Carol. 2016. *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*. New York: Bloomsbury.

Anderson traces the powerful forces opposed to black progress in American from the Civil War to the present to reframe our continuing conversations on race. She links historical flashpoints, such as Black Codes and Jim Crow, the shutting down of public schools after *Brown v Board*, and the War on Drugs, to demonstrate how after each social progress for African Americans there was a swift and cleverly crafted opposition by whites.

Why Read: It adds a new dimension to the national conversation about race in America.

DiAngelo, Robin. 2018. *White Fragility: Why It's So hard for White People to Talk About Racism*. Boston, Massachusetts: Beacon Press.

DiAngelo explores white fragility and allows us to understand racism as a practice that is not restricted to bad people. White fragility is the emotions that appear when white people are challenged racially, which in turn functions to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevents meaningful cross-racial dialogue.

Why Read: Necessary read for those who are committed to fostering dialogue across color lines.

Dyson, Michael Eric. 2017. *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*. New York, New York: St. Martin's Press.

Dyson argues that if we are to make real racial progress, we must face difficult truths, including being honest about how black grievance has been ignored, dismissed, or discounted. The New York Times considers it one of the most frank and searing

discussions on race and should take its place in the tradition of Baldwin's *The First Next Time* and King's *Why We Can't Wait*.

Why Read: It's a short yet emotional and powerful personal call for change.

Irving, Debby. 2014. *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*. Boston: Elephany Room Press.

Growing up in a predominantly white upper middle-class community in Massachusetts, Irving had no reason to put much thought into race. Then after taking a graduate course called Race and Cultural Identity in her 40s, she began realizing how much she had benefited over the years from her whiteness. This book is about her journey of waking up white and her beginning to question her long held assumption about race and culture.

Why Read: By sharing her sometimes cringe-worthy struggle to understand race and racial tensions, while coming to terms with her own whiteness is something that white people can connect to and understand. Irving argues that understanding whiteness is the key to understanding racism.

Watch: Finding Myself in the Story of Race.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=299&v=c5nqN8tmfok

Why Watch: Talk is designed to be a 101 for white people about what white privilege and institutional racism and how they manifest. 15 mins.

Lipsitz, George. 1998. *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit from Identity Politics*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Lipsitz demonstrates how whiteness works in respect to minorities, beyond black/white, and delineates the weaknesses embedded in civil rights laws, the racial dimensions of economic restructuring and deindustrialization, and the effects of environmental racism, job discrimination, and school segregation. He argues that beyond personal prejudice, whiteness is a structured advantage that produces unfair gains and unearned rewards for whites.

Why Read: It's an unflinching look at white supremacy.

Roediger, David R. 2007. *The Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the American Working Class*. Verzo.

Roediger provides an original study of the formative years of working-class racism in the US. He argues that working class racism is underpinned by a complex series of psychological and ideological mechanisms that reinforce racial stereotypes.

Why Read: necessary read for those interested in labor history and critical race theory.

Rothenburg, Paula, ed. 2016. *White Privilege: Essential Readings on the Other Side of Racism*. New York: Worth Publishers.

Prepared by:
Mia L. Carey, PhD

This is a series of articles that explore topics such as, color-blind racism, virtual probation, racial profiling, “flying while brown”, the politics of respectability, immigration and citizenship, etc.

Why Read: No discussion of race is complete without exploring the ways in which some people and groups actually benefit from racial bias.

Sullivan, Shannon. 2014. Good White People: The Problem with Middle-Class White Anti-Racism. Albany: SUNY Press.

Sullivan argues that the problem with “good white people” or those well-meaning white liberals is an effort in confronting systematic racism and white privilege. She believes that instead of distancing themselves from racial injustice, white people need to acknowledge and transform their whiteness into real action.

18. Women’s Liberation

Staples, Brent. 2019. When the Suffrage Movement Sold Out to White Supremacy.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/02/opinion/sunday/women-voting-19th-amendment-white-supremacy.html>, accessed February 11, 2019.

As the centennial of the 19th Amendment approaches, Staples argues that we must reexamine the women’s suffrage movement, which overwhelmingly left out black female suffragists and black women as a whole. Arguing that the exclusion of black women was a race issue not a gender issue, white women sold out to white supremacy by declaring the 19th Amendment a victory and embarked on a campaign to prove it was successful.

Why Read: It challenges the idea that the women’s suffrage movement was successful for all women.

19. Voting

Anderson, Carol. 2018. One Person, No Vote.: How Voter Suppression is Destroying Our Democracy. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Anderson traces the rollback of African American voter participation since the 2013 Shelby ruling. This ruling allows districts with a history of racial discrimination to change voter requirements without approval from the DOJ.

Why Read: This is an important book for those who deny government-dictated racial discrimination.

Berman, Ari. 2016. Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America. Picador.

Prepared by:
Mia L. Carey, PhD

Berman explores the aftermath of the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was supposed to be the major achievement of the Civil Rights Movement. However, she argues that now, 50 years later, the battles continue.

Why Read: This is the first comprehensive look at the Voting Rights Act and its aftermath.